

the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2015.

The situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 21, 2015.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012 TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Select Committee on Benghazi will hold hearings certain to drive congressional approval ratings to new lows. The majority leader, the leader of the Republicans, and the New York Republican, Mr. HANNA, and former Republican Committee staffers have all confessed that the purpose of this committee is no governmental purpose, but the political purpose of driving down Secretary Clinton's approval ratings and political prospects. And for that, we have spent 4.5 million taxpayer dollars.

Even before those admissions, it was apparent that that was the purpose of this committee. They have held four hearings in 17 months and developed nothing of significance. They have abandoned plans to have hearings with top intelligence and defense officials. They have done nothing up until now. Yet, tomorrow, they are set to spend 8 hours grilling one woman.

Nothing about the tragedy in Benghazi has been revealed by this committee, and nothing will be revealed tomorrow. All this committee has done is focus on what has been referred to as Secretary Clinton's damn emails.

Look at the rules that bind Congress on emails. We are free to use any server. We are free to keep and delete or to take the emails with us.

We have got an 8 percent approval rating. It is going down tomorrow as a result of what the Benghazi Committee plans to do.

TRINIDAD GARZA EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL NAMED NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the faculty, staff, and students of Trinidad Garza Early College High School at Mountain View for being named a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School.

For the last 33 years, the Department of Education has recognized superior schools for their academic achievement, their progress in closing achievement gaps, and for demonstrating that all students can achieve high levels of success.

Nominated by top education officials in Texas, Trini Garza is one of 335 schools across the country being recognized as a 2015 Blue Ribbon School and one of 28 such schools in the great State of Texas.

As a dual-degree school, Trinity Garza has made it a priority to make students college ready, life ready, and career ready.

I am proud to represent a school that has truly excelled since opening in 2006. Trini Garza, along with 334 other schools, will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on November 9 and 10.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Trini Garza Early College High School on this important accomplishment.

□ 1830

ADDRESS THE DEBT LIMIT AND REACH A BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there are just 9 more legislative days to act fully to protect the full faith and credit of the United States before November 3 in order to prevent the risk of a first ever U.S. default.

We know that a default is not what the American people want. It could shatter retirement savings and send interest rates for mortgages, student loans, credit cards, and car payments soaring. We know that even a threat of default has serious consequences.

We have experienced a downgrading in our credit before because our friends on the other side of the aisle—Republicans—took us to the catastrophic brink. And then, of course, we realized that what we did today, Pay China First Act, does not help the American people.

If we continue on this pathway, we will impact 1.4 million Active-Duty troops by not paying our debt, 4.1 million disabled veterans who served their country with honor by not paying our debt, 2.3 million veterans who receive home purchasing assistance by not paying our debt, American small busi-

nesses that sell goods and services to the government and most doctors and hospitals that treat the 53.8 million Medicare patients around the country by not paying our debt.

We cannot hold the United States hostage or our credit hostage. It is time to address in a fair and reasonable manner the debt of the United States, which is the people of the United States. Get rid of sequester, follow our responsibilities, and pay our bills so that we can help those veterans who need help.

Mr. Speaker, once again House Republicans are putting the narrow partisan interests of their right-wing base ahead of addressing the real challenges and problems facing the American people.

Congress has only 10 legislative days to act to fully protect the full faith and credit of the United States before November 3, in order to prevent the risk of a first-ever U.S. default.

A default would shatter retirement savings and send interest rates for mortgages, student loans, credit cards and car payments soaring.

We know that even the threat of default has serious consequences: plummeting consumer confidence, and drastic slowdowns in job creation and economic growth.

Instead of taking the threat of catastrophic default off the table, this week, Republicans are bringing forward a bill that would give priority to bondholders from China and other foreign nations would be paid first.

This bill, more accurately described as the "Pay China First Act," puts payments to Americans at risk, including those to: 1. 1.4 million active duty troops; 2. 4.1 million disabled veterans who served their country with honor; 3. 2.3 million veterans who receive home purchasing assistance; 4. American small businesses that sell goods and services to the government; 5. Doctors and hospitals that treat the 53.8 million Medicare patients around the country.

The credit rating of the United States is not a hostage to serve Republicans' toxic special interest ideology.

Republicans should bring forward a clean bill to honor the full faith and credit of the United States immediately.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have wasted enormous amount of time on irresponsible, futile, and reckless diversions such as trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, defund Planned Parenthood, and use the Benghazi Select Committee as an adjunct of the Republican National Committee to engage in partisan attacks on the leading candidate for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

Because so much time has been wasted on these frivolous issues, we now have the following critical deadlines staring us in the face:

1. October 29: Highway & Transit Trust Fund expires, endangering good paying jobs and critical construction projects throughout America;

2. November 3: Deadline to raise debt ceiling to protect full faith and credit of the United States.

3. December 11: Deadline to pass a funding bill that keeps the government open.

Americans are already paying a heavy price for House Republicans' legislative mismanagement.

Earlier this summer, Republicans shut down the Export-Import Bank for the first time in its 81-year history.